

Digital knowledge - chances and risks

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Abstract: In recent years virtual globes have become more and more popular. First used as a digital representation of planet earth, they rapidly became more comprehensive. Google Earth is a very popular example for this progress: users are able to contribute own content (ranging from pictures and 3d models), it also can be used as a platform for more complex information visualization and information exchange (e.g. database visualization). Popular catchphrases, for example, are civic participation, public information, planning and decision support, and collaborative work. With more enhanced display technologies and interaction techniques this systems will gain even more attention. On the one hand new display technologies open the systems for collaborative work, on the other hand interaction techniques make a contribution to usability.

In certain application areas, especially urban planning, the availability of information is crucial. Without proper information sources developing sustainable planning is impossible. But here first problems can arise: is the information, which is provided, valid? Are there issues with privacy, having sensitive data in mind? Who else can access certain information, especially more sensitive data?

In this survey paper we make a contribution to the question of chances and risks come along with the digitalization and increased accessibility of data and to reveal application areas.

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